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March 1995

Dear Trichopterologist,

This number of BRAUERIA comes to you earlier in the year than usual. I will be absent for some weeks in the spring and am therefore mailing it now so that you get it before our Symposium in the United States in July.

Our age is full of technological miracles, but sometimes one wonders how useful this progress is. One of the gadgets of our time is the computer. I am not disputing its value, but the information output cannot be better and more complete than the input. For instance, one sees in many recent publications that authors know only those references which are supplied by one of the commercially available databanks. They have apparently never learned how to do a careful literature search. Of course we can all overlook some recent publications despite careful search, but I am concerned that not all authors of Trichoptera papers from SE Asia know Ulmer's book from 1951 on Sunda Trichoptera, and other important standard works.

Telecommuniation covers other modern gadgets. There are some courier mail services which are extremely expensive, and it is said that they are fast. However, to bring an urgent letter from North America to me last year, a car had to come the 150 km from Vienna Airport to my home; it turned out that this letter was 8 days under way which is the normal time for ordinary airmail. Even inside Europe there are funny criss-cross migrations of letters: a letter from London mailed via Budapest, a letter from Berlin mailed via Geneva and received after 16 days instead the usual 2-3 days with ordinary mail, a letter from Spain mailed via Denmark. Evidently the fuel for transport vehicles is too cheap !!

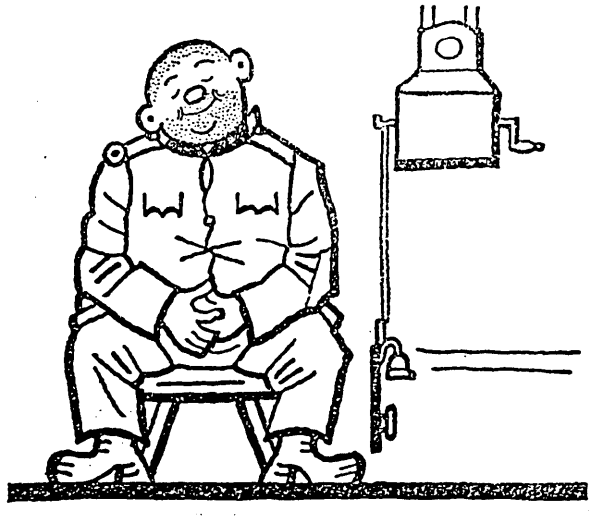
Fax is thought to be particularly fast, but please do not fax anything to me. I do not have my own fax apparatus, and if you send the message through another one including my institute, I may get it after weeks or never. By the way, the reproducing quality of some faxes is so poor that it may be illegible.

Finally, the telephone. I do not belong to that section of mankind which spends all its time near a telephone. My number is 07486/410, but please call me only if it is really urgent and necessary. Calls come often in my absence, and if it is said the call will be repeated in 20 minutes, the second call usually comes two hours later or never, and I have to wait and cannot leave the room and urgent things cannot be done in this time.

If you have an urgent message to me, send a normal airmail letter; mail it some days earlier so that it comes in time, and put a nice stamp on it rather than an ugly red postage label. A letter with stamps is always a sign of individual expression among the bulk of paper which the poor postman has to deliver. Express letters are useless except when they arrive on Saturday morning; on other days I get them at the same time as other letters.

Concerning my scientific activity, Dr.Chantaramongkol was here from May to October last year, when we continued our work on SE Asian caddis, mainly Hydropsychidae. A paper on vertical zonation of caddisflies on Doi Inthanon, the highest mountain of northern Thailand, is in press. In the autumn I spent some days on the island of Bali and got some good samples (see the list in this number).

A word to my permanent exchange partners. Some of you get the reprints of all my papers, but in other cases I send only those papers which I assume to be of interest, e.g. to a worker specializing on the American fauna I usually do not send my Asian papers. But if you want these too, please let me know. The list of my publications is found in the literature section in every number of BRAUERIA. On the other hand, I ask everyone to send me reprints of <u>all</u> their papers on Trichoptera, both for my own use and for the literature list.

With my best wishes

Yours sincerely, Hans Malicky